**Remote Desktop**

Remote desktop is a program or an operating system feature that allows a user to connect to a computer in another location, see that computer's desktop and interact with it as if it were local.

People use remote desktop access capabilities to do a variety of things, including the following:

* Access a workplace computer from home or when traveling.
* Access a home computer from other locations.
* Fix a computer problem.
* Perform administrative tasks.
* Demonstrate something, such as a process or a software application

Telnet:-

Telnet is a user command and an underlying [TCP/IP](https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/TCP-IP) [protocol](https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/protocol) for accessing remote computers. Through Telnet, an administrator or another user can [access](https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/access) someone else's computer remotely. On the Web, [HTTP](https://searchwindevelopment.techtarget.com/definition/HTTP) and FTP protocols allow you to request specific files from remote computers, but not to actually be logged on as a user of that computer. With Telnet, you log on as a regular user with whatever privileges you may have been granted to the specific [application](https://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/definition/application) and [data](https://searchdatamanagement.techtarget.com/definition/data) on that computer.

A Telnet command request looks like this (the computer name is made-up):

The result of this request would be an invitation to log on with a user id and a prompt for a password. If accepted, you would be logged on like any user who used this computer every day.

Telnet is most likely to be used by program developers and anyone who has a need to use specific applications or data located at a particular [host](https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/host) computer.

Team Viewer:-

Teamviewer supports Windows, OS X, Linux, Android, and iOS, and is free for personal use. It's probably the most obvious alternative to LogMeIn, and the most popular contender from the nominations thread. Not only does Teamviewer offer remote support and remote management—as in you don't necessarily have to have the remote side set up before you need to connect—it also sports useful features like wake-on-LAN to wake up a sleeping computer and put it back to sleep when you're finished, file transfer capabilities, clipboard passthrough, support for connecting from mobile devices like phones or tablets, and more. Teamviewer even supports online meetings and collaboration, so multiple people can connect to one host or share a session if they need to.

The beauty of Teamviewer is that all of the features I mentioned are free, setup is incredibly easy, and the app actually has more features built-in to it than you'll probably ever really need. Those of you who nominated it praised its ability to manage multiple systems from one computer without having to remember them, the fact that Teamviewer works well without you having to make a ton of firewall modifications or do port forwarding, their support for two-step authentication, and more.

Splashtop:-

Splashtop supports Windows, OS X, Linux, Android, and iOS, and is free for personal use (up to five computers, and depending on how you use it). It's perhaps most notable as a tool that allows you to stream audio and video across computers with minimal latency, so if you love watching movies on your tablet that are stored on your desktop but don't want to deal with apps or compatibility issues, Splashtop is a great tool. It's not limited to that these days though—You can use the applications on your remote device like you were sitting right there, manage files without transferring them first in their own native applications, and more.

The only downside to Splashtop free is that it starts to get pricey when you really need remote access. $2/month will get you the ability to access your home computers off network, which is arguably the biggest draw of a remote access tool—so you can actually access your PC when you're away, or a friend or family member's PC without going to their house. It does require a little setup on the client side before you can connect too, but if your goal is to enjoy media remotely and do some light troubleshooting, it's worth a look.

Chrome Remote Desktop:-

Chrome Remote Desktop supports Windows and OS X (and Linux, sort of), and is completely free for personal and commercial use. It's essentially just a Chrome app that you have to install in Chrome on any computer you want to connect to. You'll have to be logged in to Chrome on any computer you want to connect to as well, which is a bit of a bummer, but the great thing is that it runs in your browser, is super-easy to set up, and it's remarkably fast. It's not packed with additional features, but if all you need is to do some quick, cross-platform troubleshooting or access some files remotely, it's fast and free, and uses a web browser you probably already have installed. The video above from [Tekzilla](http://tekzilla.com/" \t "_blank) shows you how it works.

It's not perfect—Chrome Remote Desktop has no mobile apps or support at all (although the word is it's coming soon), has some trouble with multiple displays, and it's pretty featureless when it comes to things like wake-on-LAN, file transfer, streaming, and other support tools, but what you trade in heft you get back in simplicity and ease-of-use, which is exactly what those of you who nominated it praised it for.

Vnc:-

VNC, or Virtual Network Computing, is less of a specific product and more of a platform. It uses existing protocols to send keyboard and mouse actions to a remote computer, and in turn it sends the screen from that remote system back to your viewer. Depending on the VNC client and server software you use, you get more features, like clipboard syncing, file sync and transfer, and more. That's the catch though—there's a VNC client and server that supports every operating system, mobile and desktop, and as long as you know what you're doing and set it up properly, you'll be able to connect to any system you control, anywhere you have internet access, completely for free. The "Official" VNC software is [RealVNC](http://www.realvnc.com/" \t "_blank), which offers its client and server apps for Windows, OS X, Linux, Android, iOS, and even Chrome for free (but will happily add features and support if you're willing to pay for them).

The other nice thing about VNC is that because it's a simple protocol, you don't necessarily have to match client and server—you can use one server on your PC at home and a free client on your phone to connect to it. VNC isn't difficult to set up, but it can be tricky to set up correctly—as in, in a way where there's minimal latency when you're trying to work with your computer remotely (easier said than done, especially over the Internet), VNC can communicate securely through your firewall at home, and without worrying that your home IP address will suddenly change and prevent you from connecting.  Again, not hard, but a knowledgeable hand should do it. RealVNC may be the official VNC software provider, but [TightVNC](http://www.tightvnc.com/" \t "_blank) has always been one of my favorites, and it's free. [UltraVNC](http://www.uvnc.com/" \t "_blank) is another option. VNC definitely has the benefit that your data isn't passing through a third party, there are no proprietary tools or services to subscribe to, and you're in complete control. You do have to set it up in advance though, which may make it great for remote access, but not necessarily remote support.